

**Alberta
Cattle
Commission**

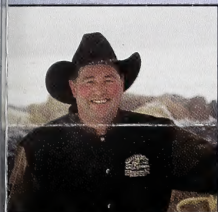
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The Alberta Cattle Producer Monthly Update

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Call us at (403) 275-4400

**Producer
Profile:
Jim Turner**



Jim Turner operates a cow/calf and mixed farm operation with his wife and three children northeast of Lethbridge. Jim is chairman of the Alberta Cattle Commission and is director to the Canadian Cattlemen's Association. Jim is committed to ensuring the ACC remains a strong voice for cattle producers' concerns.

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Year-Round Access for Feeder Cattle Imports Moves Closer

The Federal Government has published proposed amendments to the Health of Animals Regulations that will recognize zones of animal health equivalency in other countries. This moves Canada a step closer to allowing year-round access of cattle imports from certain zones in the United States and helps ease trade tensions with the U.S., our largest market for Canadian cattle and beef.

Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) President Ben Thorlakson says, "The inability to move feeder cattle into Canada during the summer months has been a real sticking point with our American neighbors. There are a lot of Canadian feeders who are

anxious to continue importing during the summer. It appears this won't be possible this year but we should get everything in place by early fall."

Thorlakson emphasizes that all precautions are being taken so that year-round access will not jeopardize the health status of the Canadian herd. He adds that recognizing zones of equivalent health status will keep Canada in line with WTO regulations.

Currently, under the Canadian Restricted Feeder Cattle Import Program (formerly the Northwest Project) the states of North Dakota, Montana, Washington, Idaho and Hawaii have equivalent health standards to those of Canada.

Trade Decision Good News For Industry

The Alberta Cattle Commission (ACC) check-off made the successful defence of the U.S. trade actions possible and ensured continued access to Canada's largest market.

"We're very pleased with the decision, says ACC Chairman Jim Turner. "Our defence strategy proved to be effective as the decision was a 5-1 vote in our favor."

The ACC is the largest funder of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) which led the charge on the legal front. Total cost of the defence is almost \$5.5 million with Alberta's portion nearly \$3 million. Turner believes the U.S. investigations reinforce the need for a strong, well-funded organization like the ACC to defend the industry when necessary.

Research Hopes to Improve Vaccines

Scientists at VIDO are hoping to strengthen the effectiveness of cattle vaccines by improving how they work with the bovine immune system.

Using a specific molecule called "interleukin 6," (IL 6) researchers will try to place a strong line of defence right where viruses and bacteria launch their attack on an animal - at the mucosal surfaces of the respiratory and intestinal tracts, says lead researcher Dr. Dale Godson.

In order to prompt the best immune response, scientists believe the vaccine should be delivered to the mucosal surfaces either orally or intranasally. This could help eliminate the issue of carcass defects caused by injection site lesions, which represent a significant cost to the beef industry each year. Godson says that once researchers determine the value of administering IL 6 in a vaccine, a future goal is to develop a product that could be practically administered to cattle.

The project has received \$77,841 in funding from the Canada Alberta Beef Industry Development Fund, managed for Alberta beef producers by the Alberta Cattle Commission.